

COMMUNITY NEWS



BIG DOG WINNER...Clark Logan and his six-month-old Yellow Lab, Bo, took the first place trophy last Thursday, July 29, during Elba's Pets on Parade for the big dog division.



SMILE FOR THE JUDGE...Pets on Parade judge Brian Swensen, a representative from the SOS Animal Shelter of Enterprise, plays with Grace, the 2-year-old Chihuahua of Savannah Williamson (left).



FURY FRIEND WINNER...J. Cole Spicer participated in Pets on Parade last Thursday, July 29, with his rabbit, Diamond. J. Cole and Diamond were the only entry for the fury friend division. Also pictured is Cammie Kelley, who presented the first place trophy to J. Cole.



SMALL DOG WINNER...Chace Sauls and his Yorkshire Terrier, Roxie, were named first place winners in the small dog division last Thursday, July 29, during the Elba Chamber of Commerce sponsored event "Pets on Parade." The small dog division was the most highly contested with six different entries. Chace had two entries for the division as he also presented his poodle, Millie Sauls. Cammie Kelley presented the trophy to Chace and Roxie.

Elba Chamber of Commerce plans fund raising event for Thursday, Aug. 12

The Elba Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a fund raiser to purchase lighted and landscaped brick entrance signs for the city.

The event will be held Thursday, Aug. 12, at the Elba Recreation Center on Claxton Avenue beginning at 6:30 p.m. Chamber board members, economic development board members, the city council, Elba queens and political candidates for upcoming elections are being asked to sponsor a table.

Approximately 300 people are expected to attend. Tables will be provided, but each person who sponsors a table will be responsible for table decorations, along with

tableware. The menu will include: pork chops, baked potato, salad, dessert, bread and tea.

Entertainment will be provided, and political candidates will be recognized, given an opportunity to introduce themselves and announce what office he/she is seeking.

Please call the Elba Chamber of Commerce office (897-3125) for more information.

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS \$300

Complete list of entrants for Pets on Parade:

Large Dogs:
Clark Logan with Bo
Janzen Flowers with Rock
Savannah Williamson with Grace
Sydney Williamson with Stew

Small Dogs:
Chace Sauls with Roxie Sauls
Hayes Spicer with Tinkerbell
Madelyn Kelley with Dakota
Chace Sauls with Millie Sauls

Fury Friend:
J. Cole Spicer with Diamond

Judges were from the SOS Animal Shelter in Enterprise.

ARCHIVES COLLECTION MAR 11 2008
624 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY AL 36106-0100

Sauls announce birth of son



INSIDE
NBHS holds ribbon cutting for "new" library



INSIDE
Elba's new football coach preparing for upcoming season



The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 9

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, August 12, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 3 Adv. Inserts

With communication lines open

New Brockton mayor asks county to work with town in resolving waterline relocation problem

by Linda Hodge, Editor

New Brockton Mayor Charles Cole addressed county commissioners Monday, Aug. 9, during the regular bimonthly meeting of the commission.

Cole said he came to the meeting to try and convey the problem regarding County Road 517.

"The problem from the beginning has been communication," he said. "We have consistently asked that someone come and talk with us."

Cole said New Brockton wants to see better roads for the citizens, but if the town works under a different budget than the county, he said the town's water board had requested the county's help in relocating the water line on County Road 517 to make way for the paving of that road; however, no one from the county had ever actually attended a water board meeting to discuss the situation with officials.

"I believe if you (commissioners) had known there was no such communication, you wouldn't have suggested going

ahead and doing the work and sending us (New Brockton water board) a bill," Cole said. "You wouldn't have suggested your attorney send us a letter with a deadline to move it."

The mayor said the town officials want to work with the county just as they have in the past, and they will work with the county on this project.

"The problem from day one has been communication. There's been no communication," he said. "It's not a problem that can't be solved."

Cole said he believes New Brockton Water Board officials need to sit down and talk with county officials. He said the county can put in writing what it expects of New Brockton in regards to relocating the water line, and then, the town will respond in writing as to what it can do.

"I want to sit down and talk and put in writing what needs to be done," he said.

County engineer Randy Tindell reiterated that no one from either side of this issue, New Brockton officials or county officials, has taken an adversarial position regarding this matter.

He did say he had met with an employee of the New Brockton water board, but he had not

seen no communication," he said. "It's not a problem that can't be solved."

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HELPING JERRY'S KIDS...Elba firefighters are in the business of saving lives, including those of individuals with one of 43 neuromuscular diseases. The local firemen spent last Saturday morning, Aug. 7, asking people to help "fill their boots" with donations going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The firefighters have devoted themselves to helping MDA by collecting funds each summer to help conquer muscle disease. The proceeds raised from last weekend's drive will be used locally to provide services for individuals with neuromuscular disease to include MDA clinic visits at Baptist Medical Center, support group sessions and assistance with the purchase of medical equipment. The Fill-the-Boot efforts will also help fund vital research to find cures for over 40 neuromuscular diseases and help support the local MDA summer camp at Camp ASCA in Jackson's Gap, Ala. Shown above are Elba firefighters Todd McKee, Randy Hawthorne, Chris Summerlin and Wayne Jackson.

Elba City Council approves recreation proposals

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council voted unanimously Monday night to accept a proposal to rename the Mulberry ball field to the Gaynes Waters Mulberry Ball Field. The official ceremony will be held in the Mulberry ball park at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 21st.

In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Mulberry Association Building on U.S. 84 West.

In other recreation-related business council members approved Mayor James Grimes' proposal to move forward with a \$150,000 grant request for new Little League ball fields on city-owned property on Smith Avenue.

Grimes explained that engineering estimates on the fields were higher than expected.

Council member L. M. Burch asked about adding in funds to refurbish the Mulberry park. Grimes explained that this grant program was limited and that would have to be handled from another direction. It was agreed to look into such funding.

Monthly bills totaling \$73,249.17 were approved for

payment.

The council officially certified District 4 council member Harold Spicer and District 5 council member Ronnie Hammond for another term in office, as both are unopposed in the upcoming municipal elections.

Pat Sharpless was named to the Elba Library Board. She will complete the unexpired term of Kathy Hathcock which expires in April 2007. Hathcock had recently resigned from the board.

The council voted to pay \$12,824.20 to purchase the DARE vehicle, which had been leased for the City since August 2001 by The Peoples Bank and National Security Insurance Co. Mayor Grimes explained that this investment had been planned for in the current city budget.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reported that two dispatchers would be going to an E911 school soon once these two have successfully completed the training. The dispatcher staff will be 100% certified.

Spanish but will not be released from her position with the Henry County Schools this close to school starting until that school system finds a qualified replacement. Meadows lives in Crenshaw County and has been commuting to the Headland school for several years. Until Meadows does come to the Elba

system, Gonsouler Lynn Weeks will teach the Spanish I class. She was the Spanish teacher several years ago.

Hired as Library Aide and J.V. cheerleader sponsor was Lisa Rials. She is the wife of new head football coach Scott Rials.

Janna Curtis will serve as Special Education Aide. She was a non-tenured teacher last year and lost that position when the system was cut several state teacher credits.

The board approved Carlos Folmar for the child Nutrition Program (lunchroom).

The board approved the return of all tenured personnel not retiring or resigning. They also approved the return of all non-tenured personnel not retiring or resigning with three exceptions. Bryce Phillips and Kay Farris were cut from Aides positions and Delva Parrish was cut from the teacher ranks. These three positions were cut due to funding cutbacks.

The board also approved a \$95,000 contract with APAC for construction of a parking lot at Elba High School. This will be paid for with earmarked state funds restricted to certain construction and repair expenses.

THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will sponsor a fund raiser to purchase lighted and landscaped brick entrance signs for the city. The event will be held Thursday, Aug. 12, at the Elba Recreation Center on Claxton Ave. beginning at 6:30 p.m. The menu will include: pork chops, baked potato, salad, dessert, bread and tea. Entertainment will be provided, and political candidates will be recognized, given an opportunity to introduce themselves and announce what office he/she is seeking.

THE COFFEE COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD will conduct its quarterly board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m., at the county office complex in New Brockton. The public is invited to attend.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL "TOGGY BOTTOM" CLASSIC precession football game will be held Thursday evening, Aug. 19, in Elba as the Elba Tigers host the Highland Home Flying Squadron. The game will be held at Miller Memorial stadium in downtown Elba. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

New Brockton certifies election winners



The New Brockton Town Council officially certified winners for this year's municipal election Monday evening, Aug. 9, during the monthly council meeting. With only one candidate qualified for the mayor's position and five district seats, the current town council was able to pass a resolution of election without opposition for each spot. In doing that, each candidate was then declared the winner and certified for the seat he/she will serve the next four years. The new administration officially will fill the spots the first Monday of October. Those being elected to serve the citizens of New Brockton for the next four years are (from left): Charles B. Cole, mayor; Johnnie F. Herron, councilmember, District One; Vicki M. Harrison, councilmember, District Two; Cal Donna Howard, councilmember, District Three; Richard W. Driskell, councilmember, District Four; and I. Jeffery White, councilmember, District Five.

"We're looking at what we need and can do right now," Cole said. "That would be three inch lines which means no fire hydrants."

Max Mobley, an engineer from

The Elba City School board met in special session on August 3rd for the expressed purpose of finalizing the hiring of teachers.

Only one new teacher was approved at this meeting and that is a conditional hire. Ashley Meadows was hired to teach

Spanish but will not be released from her position with the Henry County Schools this close to school starting until that school system finds a qualified replacement. Meadows lives in Crenshaw County and has been commuting to the Headland school for several years. Until Meadows does come to the Elba

system, Gonsouler Lynn Weeks will teach the Spanish I class. She was the Spanish teacher several years ago.

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BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

First thing Monday morning we noticed a rash of strange messages coming in our e-mails. Using that tiny bit of common sense we occasionally display, the attachments went unopened from the get-go. As the morning progressed and the number of similar messages passed the dozen mark, we were convinced a new e-mail virus was floating around out there in cyberspace. Then Tuesday morning the "experts" announced that some folks were getting hundreds of those things per hour. In case you haven't opened your electronic mailbox this week, be careful of any one that fits the following description lifted from an internet news site: "simple message 'price or new price' Attachments to the e-mail were named with some variation of the word price, such as new_price.zip, price_new.zip, or price_08.zip." You open the e-mail and there is an attachment, which appears to be a PDF or maybe a zip file. We don't know what happens if the attachment is opened, but it is doubtful there is any good to come from this latest virus.

Schools are starting again this week. While most of the students are not really excited about going back to the books, they will settle down and hit the grind within a few days. We have faith in them. As our children get back into the daily school routines, automobile drivers need to kick up the alertness level and be on the lookout for each and every one of these precious gifts God has given area families.

Municipal elections are fast approaching in Coffee County communities. August 24th is right around the corner. If those who live in any of the incorporated areas of the county have not made up their minds yet, we urge them to put on the old thinking cap immediately. It is always scary when voters go to the polls unprepared and then make snap judgments. Of course that is less likely in this type election. In Elba no person will have more than two races to vote in and a maximum of only two options in either of those races. Yet every election cycle we find at least one or two voters who will go into the voting house "undecided." But on the other hand voters who will go in to vote this year "decided" have a 50-50 chance of messing up. Of course that means someone else will mess up, not us or our very smart and well informed friends!!

President Bush named a new CIA director this week. Of course he must go through the confirmation process with Congress before being officially seated, but if Bush opponents are smart they will not oppose the appointment. To do so would surely trigger strong negative talk about exactly who is the real problem with America's internal security system. Already we have received word from Senator Shelby's office that he knows Representative Goss well, has worked closely with him and supports his nomination for the position. That will go a long way toward the Florida lawmaker's success in the Senate confirmation hearings.

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Aug. 2, 2004, investigated the following incidents: one traffic hazard, one unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, one driving under the influence, one found property, three for domestic violence, one possession of marijuana, one burglary, three for criminal mischief, one harassment, one criminal trespassing and one theft of property.

The following arrests were made: one for domestic violence, one for driving under the influence, three for failure to appear, one for possession of marijuana and two for harassment. Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for driving with a suspended driver's license, two for no proof of insurance, one for no tag, four for speeding, one for not wearing a seat belt, one for an expired tag and one for no insurance.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows: MONDAY, AUG. 2 - River stage - 5.21 feet (7:00 a.m.). Wreck reported at the intersection of Hwy. 84 and the 203 Bypass (9:16 a.m.).

TUESDAY, AUG. 3 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 5379 County Rd. 215 (3:33 a.m.). River stage - 5.60 feet (7:20 a.m.). Two-vehicle wreck reported at the intersection of Carver Dr. and the 203 Bypass (6:43 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4 - Two-vehicle wreck reported at the intersection of Taylor Mill Road and the 203 Bypass (6:13 p.m.).

THURSDAY, AUG. 5 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 7095 County Rd. 410 (2:29 a.m.). Domestic disturbance reported in Room 105 of the Riviera Motel (3:51 a.m.). Domestic disturbance reported at the Riviera Motel (4:33 a.m.). River stage - 6.20 feet (6:43 a.m.). Domestic disturbance reported at 1152 Neil Grantham Dr. (6:22 p.m.).

FRIDAY, AUG. 6 - Domestic disturbance reported on Reynolds St. (9:32 a.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to 941 Forrest Ave. (6:51 p.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1403 Smith Ave. (8:51 p.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to Taylor Mill Oaks (10:43 p.m.).

SATURDAY, AUG. 7 - Routine activity.

SUNDAY, AUG. 8 - Elba Fire Department dispatched to a grass fire on Hwy. 166 (4:09 p.m.). Domestic disturbance reported at 1225 Farris Ave. (6:18 p.m.). Disturbance (crowd) with a possible fight in progress reported in the Market Place parking lot (7:28 p.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to 617 Mullins Circle (8:27 p.m.). Domestic disturbance reported at 1225 Farris Ave. (8:33 p.m.).

EDITORIAL

Choc Pea Watershed Authority supports long range water quality partnership

In 1994 the Choctawhatchee, Pea, and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority (CPYRWMA) joined with the Geological Survey of Alabama (GSA) to determine the condition of water resources in the Wiregrass. For ten years these two state agencies have assisted local governments with the characterization, development, and protection of the water resources of Southeast Alabama and education of the citizens of the area concerning this most precious resource. Collection and interpretation of scientific data has been accomplished in a systematic manner to supply information to water users for future water source development and protection. Realization of water resource needs in Southeast Alabama in recent years is prompting the CPYRWMA, water supply systems, and local governments to formulate plans for future water supply. A major part of this

planning process includes hydrogeologic data collected by the GSA. As part of the ongoing effort that has established the most comprehensive hydrogeologic data base ever assembled in the state, the GSA is developing an inactive CD-ROM with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology so that the data collected by GSA, CPYRWMA, Troy University, USGS, EPA, ADEM, NRCS, and others may be easily and efficiently evaluated and used for water resource education, development, protection, and planning in the Wiregrass. The development of GIS technology has led to a revolution in the ability to view complex data sets and format in relatively simple maps and computer output. The CD-ROM will include easy-to-use mapping software that allows the users to explore, analyze, and print maps that are customized by the users. Now this technology will be available to stakeholders in the Wiregrass. One of the first users of this interactive GIS CD-ROM will be the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Clean Water Partnership (CPYRCWP). The partnership is an organization of private landowners, concerned citizens, and representatives from agriculture, industry, timber, municipalities, county commissions, education, local, state, and federal agencies, etc. A major task of the CPYRCWP is to compile and assess information concerning stakeholders in the watershed and available water-quality and natural resource data. This technology is particularly well suited to assist stakeholders in understanding the relationships between the physical, hydrogeologic, and biological components of their watershed and how land-cover and land-use activities and polluted runoff affect the quality of streams and rivers. The GIS software will allow

Commissioner Sparks takes lead in bio-security protection training for large poultry industry

The Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries along with the Alabama Department of Homeland Security are taking the lead in trying to help the Alabama poultry growers by further educating them on bio-security. Signs are being printed in both English and Spanish and will be placed in every poultry house in Alabama. These signs will serve as reminders of practices that the growers should use on a daily basis in order to prevent agricultural bio-terrorism and poultry disease. The Alabama agriculture is a \$4.7 billion dollar industry and the poultry receipts make up about 65% of that figure. We must and we will do everything in our power to insure the safety of citizens who will consume these poultry products, but also to help protect the poultry industry and farmers. Sparks stated.

Commissioner Ron Sparks along with State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Francis and Poultry Programs Director Ray Hilburn emphasize that bio-security is the best prevention for bio-terrorism and poultry disease such as Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle disease.

When you insure both your car and home with us through Auto-Owners Insurance, we'll save you money! Stop in or call us today for a "No Problem" insurance check-up.

CARD OF THANKS

Thanks to Bishop Hiron Williams and the New Abundant Life Church family in the Shiloh Community for the Back to School Gospel Fest. The kids had a blast and thanks for the school supplies given to each child. Thank You. KIDS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA

BULLETIN BOARD

- ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S. addition recovery ministry services. Thurs. 7 p.m. in Right Church. Call 865-9701 or visit the website: www.mprb.org
- SOCIAL SECURITY REP. Court House 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30 Call FRIDAY 1-800-772-2211
- ROTARY CLUB Tuesday at Noon First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- ELBA CITY COUNCIL 2nd & 4th Monday 7 p.m. City Hall
- WATER & ELECTRIC Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6 p.m. City Hall
- ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. Tues. 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
- GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP every Monday 6:30 p.m. Elba United Methodist Church enter on side on W. Davis St. Maggie Garrett Casanova
- COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION 2nd & 4th Monday Community Room in Farm Center Complex at New Brockton
- LIONS CLUB 2nd & 4th Tues. 8 a.m. Senior Center
- ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD 1st Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Supr. Office
- AMERICAN LEGION 1st Tues. of every month 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
- MASONIC LODGE 170 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m. 8th Ward Room at Elba High School
- VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri 8-12 noon 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton at Farm Center Complex 894-5555
- COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. 3rd Sat. 3 p.m. Club House
- COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN 3rd Wed. Noon Colony at the Airport
- AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month
- ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB 1st & 3rd Monday 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room
- NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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A New Schedule

PRE-SCHOOL DIVISION: Two levels, ages 3-4 and age 5. Includes pre-school tap, plus other exercises to develop motor skills important to learning.

TAP: NINE LEVELS: age 6 and up, graded from Basic to Senior Group. Includes international rhythms, the standard American tap vocabulary, and exercises for strength and flexibility.

BALLET: One class, age 12 and up. Includes basic ballet, French terminology, and Character Dance. Pointe shoes permitted, not required.

FOR INFORMATION or to confirm your reservation, call: 1-334-493-4858



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Cox:

My family stopped at an Enterprise service station the other night. There were Elba Clippers in the rack by the check out counter. I glanced through the paper and it reminded me of a time decades ago. You might remember my Dad, W.T. Benson and his grocery warehouse in Geneva. The advertising department received many weekly out of town, state papers during the 1970's. I would drive my '67 Camaro out to the office on Thursday nights and indulge myself on the latest sports news - not the grocery store ads. The Elba Clipper was the best one of them all.

At your local Piggly Wiggly, Billy Jermon and I would discuss the sports in our own little world - mainly The Elba Tigers. After a while we would talk shop - grocery business.

You have touched many lives and we Thank You!

Joe Dan & Sherry Benson

Dear Editor, I would like to express my gratitude to the City of Elba, or more directly, the employees of the recreation department for the fine job they do in regards to the upkeep of Evergreen Cemetery. It is comforting to know that the final resting place of our loved ones is looked after with such care.

The pride and dedication in keeping the cemetery clean and well landscaped is certainly noticeable. The city made a good move when it took over this project.

Often times, the upkeep of a cemetery is not what it should be, and I am proud that the City of Elba realizes this importance and works hard each and every week to assure our city cemetery is above standard. I'm sure it takes a lot of work to keep the cemetery clean and landscaped, therefore, I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks to the city and its employees for their hard work. It has not gone unnoticed and is certainly appreciated! Sincerely, James Vaughan

To Those Who Are Concerned: As many of you already know, Joey Arnold was born and raised here in the Jack community. You know his character and his determination. Joey was born with low vision. Despite that, Joey has earned a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in education from Troy State University.

For seven years, Joey has been a substitute teacher at Zion Chapel High School and has been told many times by school officials they would allow him to be a teacher but can't because they "need a coach" who can also teach social studies. So, Joey took a class at TSU entitled "Coaching Football." He earned an A in the class and got a letter of recommendation from TSU's head coach Larry Blakeney. School officials say Joey is unqualified to coach because he never played sports in school, even though that was because Joey was born with low vision. However, Joey was at every football practice and game as a manager/trainer for six years. Joey knows the sport and everything that involves it like the

back of his hand. All Joey has ever asked for is a chance. So far, Joey has been denied 16 jobs within the Coffee County School System.

This past year, ZC had more than 20 students who did not pass the social studies section of the graduation exam. We need good teacher's at our school, because our school is a reflection of our community. It seems that some people are more worried about sports, and have forgotten that our children are supposed to be going to school to learn.

Joey has, by the grace of God, and through hard work and dedication, earned two degrees from TSU and deserves to be considered for the social studies teacher's position open right now at Zion Chapel. School began Monday, and ZC still has no teacher for our kids. Please contact Zion Chapel High School, the Coffee County Board of Education, State Senator Jimmy Holley and State Representative Terry Spicer and tell them you believe Mr. Arnold deserves to be able to prove his abilities in the classroom just like any other teacher. Thank you for your support and God bless you all. Sincerely, Heather Adecock

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CARD OF THANKS

KELLEY FAMILY The family of Eddie Kelley wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the kind expressions of your sympathy during our loss. May God bless you all. 8-12-chg

MYRON THOMAS FAMILY Thanks so much for your many expressions of love and kindness during the long illness, and death of our husband and father. Please know the many phone calls, visits, cards, and prayers during his sickness were bright spots during many dark days and they made a difference to him and us. Your support was genuinely appreciated and a comfort to all. THE MYRON (MIKE) THOMAS FAMILY 8-12-lip

BLOW FAMILY The family of JOHN DANIEL BLOW would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and prayers. May God bless you in our prayer. Mary Cooper 8-12-ltc

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ELIZABETH L. BLACKMAN

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Blackman, age 84, of Elba, Ala., died Monday, August 2, 2004 at her daughter's residence in Greenville, Ala.

Funeral services were held Aug. 5, 2004 at the Elba Church of God with Rev. Felton Stewart officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mrs. Blackman was preceded in death by her husband, Mr. Bennie Blackman.

Survivors include three daughters: Alma (Jimmy) Davis, Elba; Juanetta (Fenton) Stewart, Greenville; Carolyn Brackley, Crestview, Fla. four sisters: Nell Danforth, Enterprise, Ala.; Louise Sanders, Elba; Madelyn Smith, Daphne, Ala.; Jean Addison, Sarasota, Fla.; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

HARRY D. CONNER

Mr. Harry D. Conner, age 70, of Gainesville, Fla., died Monday, August 2, 2004.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 4, at the Millam Funeral Home Chapel, 311 South Main Street, Gainesville, Fla., with Rev. Brent Harris and Rev. James Sproull officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville, Fla.

Survivors include his wife, Totsy Johnson Conner; two sons: Michael Doyle (Candace) Cassidy Sr., Andalusia, Ala.; Joseph Bradley (Tiffina) Cassidy Sr., Opp; one sister, Nellie Cassidy Godwin, Andalusia, Ala.; his mother, Sarah Stone Cassidy Cullum, Opp; and four grandchildren.

WILMER MINCY

Mr. Wilmer Mincy, age 85, died August 2, 2004. Funeral services were held Thursday, August 5, at St. Beulah Missionary Baptist Church of Enterprise, Ala. with Rev. Dr. V. J. Coleman officiating. Burial followed at St. Beulah Church Cemetery of Enterprise with Coleman Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Mincy was preceded in death by his wife, Lue Gene Thomas Mincy.

Survivors include a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

BLAINE STEVEN BLUE Infant Blaine Steven Blue, son of Heather Renee Blue of Elba and the late Mark Steven Blue, died Sunday, Aug. 1, 2004 at USA Women's & Children's Hospital in Mobile, Ala.

Graveside services were held at Peaceful Acres on Friday, Aug. 6, 2004 with Rev. Nathan Carroll officiating. Burial followed in Peaceful Acres Cemetery in Opp, Ala.

Preceding him in death were his father, Mark Steven Blue; two grandfathers, Steve Blue and J.T. Blue; two great-grandfathers, Leroy Boutwell and Houston Holley.

Survivors include his mother, Heather Renee Blue; his grandparents: Rick and Ann Holley, Elba; Pattie Smith, Opp; his great-grandparents: Ruth Boutwell, Elba; Arlette Hall, Samson, Ala.; Betty Williams, Opp; three aunts: Brittany Holley, Elba; Randi

Obituaries

DOYLE LANIER CASSADY

Mr. Doyle Lanier Cassady, age 65, of Opp, Ala., died Saturday, June 26, 2004.

Mr. Cassady was born in Covington County on August 17, 1938. He worked in sales for Dorsey Trailers in Elba for 25 years. In 1989, he purchased a trailer repair business in Elba and began the operation of C&C Trailers, Inc.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 28, in the Chapel at Wyatt Funeral Home with Rev. Wayne Sharpe officiating. Special music was provided by Chris Weide and Connie Kelley. Burial followed in the Peaceful Acres Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Cassady was preceded in death by his father, Boitoe Cassidy.

Survivors include his wife, Kay Benton Cassidy; two sons: Michael Doyle (Candace) Cassidy Sr., Andalusia, Ala.; Joseph Bradley (Tiffina) Cassidy Sr., Opp; one sister, Nellie Cassidy Godwin, Andalusia, Ala.; his mother, Sarah Stone Cassidy Cullum, Opp; and four grandchildren.

JEWELL MCINTOSH DAVIS

Mrs. Jewell McIntosh Davis, age 89, of Elba, Ala., died Sunday, August 8, 2004 at Medical Center Enterprise.

Funeral services were held Aug. 10, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Dr. Tony Dye officiating. Burial followed in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include her daughter, Tulah (Robert Joseph "Vat") Vatalaro, and grandson: Jeffery Davis Vatalaro, all of

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MR. IVAN DEWEES GRABLE

Mr. Ivan DeWees Grable, age 86, died Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2004 at the Russell County Medical Center in Lebanon, Va.

Mr. Grable lived in Elba from 1996 until 2000 with his sister, Ruth. A memorial service was held Saturday, Aug. 7, at Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church with Michael Carter officiating. Mr. Grable's body was donated for medical research. His final resting place will be at a family plot in Montgomery Memorial Cemetery, Montgomery, Ala.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet Ruth Culbertson Grable, and two brothers, Mark and Richard Grable.

Survivors include two sons: Dillon Ross (Harriet) Grable, Lebanon, Va.; Kenneth Lawrence (Barbara) Grable, Spanish Fort, Ala.; his daughter, Tricia Jane (Michael) Reid, Boulder, Colo.; his sister: Ruth G. Inman, Elba; five grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

MR. JAMES HAROLD LEVERETT

Mr. James Harold Leverett, age 60, of Glenwood, Ala., died Wednesday, August 4, 2004 at his home.

Funeral services were held Sunday, August 8, at Henderson Memorial Cemetery in Henderson, Ala. with Rev. Marvin Jackson and Rev. J.C. Turner officiating. Dillard Funeral Home of Troy, Ala. directed.

Mr. Leverett was preceded in death by his father, Harold Leverett.

Survivors include wife: Betty S. Leverett, Henderson; two sons: James D. (Leslie F.) Leverett and Charles A. Leverett, both of Henderson; mother: Ruby K. Leverett, Henderson; one sister: JoAnne Boykin, three brothers: Bobby Leverett, Larry Leverett, and John R. Leverett; 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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is pleased to welcome Gabrielle G. Baldwin, M.D., to our medical staff and Covington Pediatrics, P.C.

Dr. Baldwin is a native of the Pleasant Home Community. She received her M.D. from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, Alabama, and completed her pediatric training at University of Florida Pediatric Residency, Sacred Heart Hospital, Pensacola, Florida.

We are delighted that she has chosen to bring her unique skills and experience back home to Southern Alabama. Appointments can be made by calling her office at (334) 222-3555.

Covington Pediatrics, P.C.

Charles Eldridge, M.D. Stuart Foshee, M.D. Gabrielle Baldwin, M.D. Cynthia Taylor, CRNP

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Picture Yourself at the Beach!

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SPORTS

Views from...

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

We headed out over the weekend to get some school supplies and I told the girls that they must have planned well last year since they ran out of paper, pencils and pens just as the school year came to an end. I know that it would be hard to put leftover paper and other school supplies in the closet for use the next school year. However, it does seem like they would have at least something left they could use again. Oh well, school is back in and I am sure their want list will grow each and every week.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** The Elba Tigers wrapped up their first week of preseason football practice last week and from all reports the opening week of drills went pretty good over at Tigertown. Forty-five varsity players were still hard at work at week's end, which is twice as many players as the Tigers had when last season came to an end, and that has to be good news for the coaches and all Elba Tiger fans. Coach Rials said that the Tigers may have only about twenty-five percent of the offense when the season opens, but since everything is new on the offensive side of the football that may not be as scary as it sounds. I am still convinced that Elba has enough skilled players and depth to be a force in the 2A ranks, and I for one cannot wait until the season kicks off.

*** The annual preseason high school football standings came out last week and despite their 3-7 record of a year ago the Elba Tigers were ranked in the poll at #19. Years ago the Tigers would often be ranked in the top five before the season kicked off, but after a long series of losing seasons it was great just to see the Tigers back in the poll. One thing I did notice was that five of the Tigers opponents were also ranked in the poll, with Pike County coming in at #4 in Class 3A, Luverne, Houston Academy and Cottonwood all ranked ahead of Elba in Class 2A, and Brantley being ranked #6 in Class 1A. Even though the Tigers have dropped to 2A, it looks like they will still be underdogs at least half the time when they hit the field.

*** The enrollment figures that the Alabama High School Athletic Association used to reclassify its member schools are in this week's sports and the figures are quite interesting. With all the talk about consolidation over in Dothan it was surprising to see Dothan High was the 19th largest school in the state, and if Dothan and Northview were combined the new school would be the largest in the state by almost 200 students. No wonder some folks over in the Circle City want to combine! Another surprise to me was the fact that Daleville was the fourth largest school in Class 4A, while Geneva was the smallest in the state in the same class. Over in the 3A ranks it was shocking to see Headland, Barbour County, Dale County, Calhoun and Central of Hayneville, were all bigger than T.R. Miller. That only makes T.R. Miller's dominance in football even more amazing! The figures also revealed that if Pike County had registered three less students it would have joined Elba in the 2A ranks. That may be the big news the next time the classes change.

*** In closing... Phil Snow's 29-year association with the Auburn Tigers may have come to an end last week when Snow was removed from his position as the host of the weekly Auburn Football Review. A friend of Snow's had read in the Auburn media guide that Snow had been replaced and called Snow, who had been told nothing about being replaced. The head of the Auburn network later admitted he had made a mistake in not informing Snow of the change, and Snow was quoted as saying "I thought I at least deserved a phone call." Guess not, Phil.

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45 varsity players on '04 squad

Elba Tigers open preseason football drills

The Elba Tigers opened preseason football practice last week under the watchful eye of new head football coach Scott Rials and after five days of work the new Elba coach was pleased with what he had seen from his squad.

"We had 45 varsity players on the opening day and still had that number at the end of the week," stated Coach Rials.

"The players as a whole reported in pretty good condition and that was because of their will-

ingness to work hard the last month in the weight room and on the practice field. I have been very impressed with the strength of the players, but now we have to make certain that we are also in football shape. We started a little behind because of the fact there was no spring practice. However, the players and coaches are all willing to work hard and we will just work hard and do our best to be our best."

"The opening three days we worked out in shorts and helmets," added Coach Rials, "and got in a lot of team work as well as conditioning. The receivers learned their routes and learned how to catch the football, while

the quarterbacks worked on their drops and fundamentals. The linemen did a lot of work on proper footwork, and the offense as a whole had a pretty good start. Over on defense the linebackers and secondary worked hard on coverage and the basic sets, and the linemen worked on fundamentals. We did get in a lot of work on the defensive side, and began to

locking game and after three days it appeared to be in good shape."

"We put on the pads the last two days of the week and went out on Friday morning at 6 a.m.," said Rials.

"The first day we worked on tackling techniques and then did some seven-on-seven work, while on Friday morning we had a good work out and did some team efforts on the field. We didn't do a lot of hitting, we primarily worked on fundamentals and wanted to make sure we were sound in all areas. Overall it was a good first week and we will be balanced on offense. It takes longer to put in the passing attack and it will be on down the line before we will be able to really attack an opponent on offense. We will get in the basic running plays and a little of the

showed a true desire to work hard and become a winning football team."

"School is now underway and that will change our workouts a little," added Coach Rials.

"From a coaching standpoint it is good that the players are in school because it gets them on a routine, but it does take the kids a while to get adjusted, and that could result in a few minor problems early in the school year. This week we have done more work on offense and will line up and run plays. We will also get in more schemes on the defensive side, and begin to come together as a team. We might have only about a fourth of our offense in by the time the season kicks off and that will limit us to an extent. The defense should be ready to go, however, and may have to carry us early in the season until the offense can catch up and add some of its plays. We have started from square one and early on we will be balanced on offense. It takes longer to put in the passing attack and it will be on down the line before we will be able to really attack an opponent on offense. We will get in the basic running plays and a little of the



COACH SCOTT RIALS

passing game, and will add as we go.

"We are blessed with some very talented athletes," said Rials, "and I am confident that we will develop into a very good football team as we get more practice time under our belts. It may not be full speed when we first start, but this team will win and will get better and better as the season goes."

Elba Tigers ranked in "Top 20" in preseason high school grid poll

The Alabama Sports Writers Association released its preseason high school football rankings last week and included on the list are the Elba Tigers, the Brantley Bulldogs and the Enterprise Wildcats.

The Tigers came in at #19 in Class 2A, while the Bulldogs were ranked #8 in Class 1A and the Wildcats came in at #20 in Class 6A.

Following is a complete list of the Top 10 in all classes, as well as area teams receiving mention:

CLASS 6A

1. Hoover (14-1)
2. Prattville (12-1)
3. Daphne (14-1)
4. Opelika (12-1)
5. Vestavia Hills (12-2)
6. Mt. Brook (11-2)
7. Vigor (10-4)
8. Davidson (10-2)
9. Central, P.C. (9-2)
10. Decatur (7-5)
- Also, 20. Enterprise (6-5).

CLASS 5A

1. Briarwood (13-2)
2. Russellville (13-2)
3. Homewood (12-2)
4. Williamson (8-3)
5. Pleasant Grove (11-3)
6. Eufrasia (11-1)
7. Charles Henderson (10-2)
8. B.C. Rain (11-2)
9. Stanhope Elmore (9-3)
10. Parker (8-3)

CLASS 4A

1. Trinity (15-0)
2. UMS-Wright (11-2)
3. Deshler (14-1)
4. Demopolis (13-1)
5. North Jackson (9-3)
6. Alexandria (12-1)
7. Thomasville (10-2)
8. Brooks (9-4)

CLASS 3A

1. T.R. Miller (12-2)
2. Oneonta (13-2)
3. Colbert County (12-2)
4. Pike County (14-1)
5. Rogers (11-2)
6. Springville (9-3)
7. W.S. Neal (10-3)
8. Litchfield (9-4)
9. Cherokee County (6-4)
10. Winfield (12-2)
- Also, 11. Slocomb (11-2), 19. Straughn (7-4).

CLASS 2A

1. Randolph County (14-1)
2. Lineville (13-1)
3. Luverne (11-4)
4. Washington County (10-2)
5. Red Bay (11-2)
6. Oakman (11-1)
7. Gaston (10-3)
8. Red Level (11-3)
9. Leroy (5-6)
10. Fyffe (10-2)
- Also, 12. Houston Academy (10-3), 18. Cottonwood (8-4), 19. Elba (3-7).

CLASS 1A

1. Parrish (13-1)
2. Courtland (11-1)
3. Autaugaville (13-1)
4. American Christian (14-1)
5. Wadley (13-1)
6. Addison (11-2)
7. Ragland (11-1)
8. Brantley (12-1)
9. Reeltown (8-5)
10. Sweet Water (7-5)
- Also, 16. Florala (5-6), 19. Goshen (3-7).

Enterprise to host
men's 5 HR softball
tournament Aug. 20-21

The Enterprise Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a "Men's Best of the Best" softball tournament on August 20-21, at the Enterprise Softball Complex. The entry fee is \$140 per team and 44 core softballs will be provided. The home run limit is 5 per team, with team trophies going to the top four teams and individual awards to members of the winning team. The deadline to enter is 5:00 PM on August 18. To enter call Billy Powell 348-2680 or Denise Hope 348-2681.

**GET READY
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CLASSIC IS
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AWAY!!**

Youth football registration
now underway in Elba

Registration is now underway for all boys ages 6-12 that wish to play youth football this fall for the Elba Tigers in the Little Tr County Football League.

There are three age divisions for the teams in the league, with the age of a player being determined by his age on August 1, 2004. Boys ages 6-8 will play in the Midget division, while boys ages 9-10 will compete in the Terminate division and boys ages 11-12 will compete in the Pee Wee division.

The 2004 season will begin on Saturday, Sept. 11, and all games will be played on Saturdays, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Practice will begin the first week in August.

Teams on Elba's schedule this season will include New Brockton, Zion Chapel, Kinross, Brantley, Luverne and Pleasant Home, while other teams in the league include Florala, Goshen and Highland Home.

A registration fee of \$20 is required for each player, with complete equipment available for rent from the Elba Parks and Recreation Department for an additional \$20. Registration forms are available at the Recreation Office, 764 North Claxton Avenue, at the Elba City Pool and will be available at all Elba schools.

All boys are encouraged to register as soon as possible to give teams as much practice time as possible prior to the beginning of the season. For more information call the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

Four drivers get first wins of
racing season at SAS

By Mark Chisum

Each year, South Alabama Speedway has a long list of different winners at season's end. Saturday night, the 2004 list of winners grew by four as four drivers picked up their first wins of the year.

Andy Pugh scored his first win of the year, winning the Super Stock Feature with relative ease. Pugh took the lead from the pole position and led every lap. Building a commanding lead, Pugh had to survive just one restart to take the win. Pugh regained his lead and led Jamie Ater to the checkered flag. David Ashley was third with Heath Mills fourth and Jody Henderson fifth.

Jeff Smith has won several Street Stock Features over the past few seasons, but until Saturday night, had yet to visit Victory Lane in 2004. Smith took advantage of Harold Hurt and Derek Deese's off track excursion to take the win. Hurt had led from the start of the caution filled race. The last caution of the race came with two laps to go when Hurt and Deese got together fighting for the lead. Deese had pulled even on the outside of Hurt on the backstretch. Entering turn three, contact sent the two off of the track and Smith into the lead. While Smith was heading to the checkers, Kyle Sims was moving inside of Scott Morse to steal second at the stripe. Deese came back to finish fourth with Jason Kendrick fifth. In the Roadrunner Feature, Tim Peters led flag to flag to take his first win. Although he led every lap, Peters win was in question until the end. Jason Singletary and Jerry Hudson made a late race charge that Peters had to hold off. As the trio headed off of turn four, Singletary made his

last challenge. Peters sped under the checkers with Singletary on his rear bumper. Hudson was just behind Singletary, third. Joseph Chandler and Danny Monaghan were fourth and fifth.

In the new Coyote class, David Scott led all 25 laps to take the win. Scott had to hold off Terry White to take the win. White was on Scott's bumper when the checkered flag flew. Clay Segars was third, followed by James Smith and Ricky Chandler.

In the Vintage Feature, Teddy Sasser took the win over a hard charging Duane Bates. Sasser took the lead from the pole, while Bates came from the sixth starting spot. Bates moved into second when Phillip Anderson and Jason Windham got together on the front stretch, sending Anderson into the inside wall. Bates challenged Sasser the remainder of the race, but the 2003 Vintage Champion was up to the task, holding Bates off. Travis Watson finished third, Windham fourth, and Donald DeShazo fifth.

In the Modified Feature, Kevin Peel used a lap 17 restart to take the lead and go on to win. Cameron Page took the lead at the start. Peel got his nose ahead of Page to lead lap three. While Page and Peel were fighting for the lead, Terry Malone stuck underneath both to grab the lead heading into turn one. Malone continued to lead until Peel made his move on the restart. Peel led the rest of the way to collect the win. Ken Gibson finished third with Randy Sherwood fourth and Jeff Darby fifth.

For more information, contact the track at (334) 565-3539, or visit the track's web site at www.southalabamasppeedway.com/

SPORTS

2004 AHSAA classification changes based
upon school's student enrollment reports2004 ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FIGURES

CLASS 6A

1. Hoover (1,669.50)
2. Murphy (1,562.25)
3. R.E. Lee (1,545.85)
4. Bob Jones (1,447.08)
5. Grissom (1,314.50)
6. Jeff Davis (1,287.32)
7. Prattville (1,266.13)
8. Sparkman (1,204.27)
9. Enterprise (1,185.55)
10. Smiths Station (1,160.90)
- Also, 19. Dothan (1,056.93), 34. Opelika (859.73), 46. Northview (799.17).

CLASS 5A

1. Huntsville (736.03)
2. Butler (735.97)
3. Arab (732.47)
4. Parker (726.23)
5. Hueytown (718.05)
6. Pinson Valley (713.77)
7. Homewood (711.67)
8. Wenonah (698.15)
9. Brewer (695.38)
10. Stanhope Elmore (691.30)
- Also, 12. Russell County (650.73), 13. Benjamin Russell (647.42), 16. B.T. Washington (635.83), 20. Carroll (617.83), 27. Eufrasia (594.52), 33. St. Pauls (567), 38. Greenville (527.33), 56. Charles Henderson (452.52), 60. Monroe County (439.43).

CLASS 4A

1. Demopolis (424.23)
2. Escambia County (423.88)
3. Moody (421.45)
4. Daleville (414.57)
5. Gulf Shores (412.05)
6. Chelsea (411.98)
7. Dallas County (403.20)
8. UMS-Wright (400.95)
9. West Point (387.15)
10. Rehobeth (386.70)
- Also, 19. St. James (367.20), 22. Andalusia (365.02), 30. Hillcrest (352.20), 38. Bullock County (329.20), 40. Ashford (328.10), 57. Opp (306.60), 61. Trinity (302.40), 66. Geneva (296.13).

CLASS 3A

1. Lincoln (295.42)
2. Dadeville (295.27)
3. Springville (294.77)
4. Headland (291.23)
5. Alabama Christian (288.90)
- Also, 15. Florala (129.20), Pleasant Home (125.13), 28. Arion (122.90), 25. Brantley (120.35), 33. Hazlewood (114.40), 39. Kinross (110.55), 41. Zion Chapel (105.80), 66. McKenzie (72.20).

CLASS 2A

1. Hoover (1,669.50)
2. Dale County (282.50)
3. LAMP (276.57)
4. Litchfield (275.93)
5. Ashville (274.78)
- Also, 12. Calhoun (273.27), 16. Central of Hayneville (268.25), 18. T.R. Miller (267.58), 26. W.S. Neal (256.55), 27. Montgomery Academy (253.80), 29. Straughn (250.43), 32. Clarke County (248.02), 44. Abbeville (234.68), 47. Slocomb (227.40), 64. Pike County (207.85).

CLASS 1A

1. McIntosh (144.55)
2. Goshen (141.85)
3. Section (141.15)
4. Reeltown (139.27)
5. Linden (138.07)
6. Thorsby (137.78)
7. Victory (137.70)
8. American Christian (136.35)
9. Ragland (133.47)
10. Appalachian (133.33)
- Also, 15. Florala (129.20), Pleasant Home (125.13), 28. Arion (122.90), 25. Brantley (120.35), 33. Hazlewood (114.40), 39. Kinross (110.55), 41. Zion Chapel (105.80), 66. McKenzie (72.20).

CLASS 6A

1. Hoover (1,669.50)
2. Murphy (1,562.25)
3. R.E. Lee (1,545.85)
4. Bob Jones (1,447.08)
5. Grissom (1,314.50)
6. Jeff Davis (1,287.32)
7. Prattville (1,266.13)
8. Sparkman (1,204.27)
9. Enterprise (1,185.55)
10. Smiths Station (1,160.90)
- Also, 19. Dothan (1,056.93), 34. Opelika (859.73), 46. Northview (799.17).

James Grimes, Mayor
City of Elba
200 Buford Street
Elba, AL 36323

The Alabama High School Athletic Association makes changes to its classification system every two years to reflect the change in student enrollment in its member schools, with such a change being adopted last spring for the next two school years.

The student enrollment is based on the number of students in grades 10-12, with hold backs from grade 9 also included. The largest 54 schools are placed in Class 6A, while the remainder

of the five classes are divided equally in classifications.

In Class 6A, Hoover High School is now the largest school in the state with an enrollment of 1,669.50, followed by Murphy, of Mobile, with 1,562.25 students and Robert E. Lee, of Montgomery, with an enrollment of 1,545.85.

Enterprise is ranked #9 in Class 6A with a student enrollment of 1,185.55, while Dothan is the 19th largest school with 1,056.93 students and Northview, of Dothan, comes in down the list at #46 with an enrollment of 799.17. The smallest school in the 6A ranks is Foley High School, with 737.58 students, which is almost 1,000 students less than Hoover.

In Class 5A, Huntsville High School sits atop the classification with a student enrollment of 736.03, followed by Butler, of Huntsville, with 735.97 students and Arab, of Prattville, with 732.47 students.

Carroll, of Ozark, is ranked #20 with 617.83, while Eufrasia is ranked 27th with a student enrollment of 594.52.

Greenville is ranked 38th with an enrollment of 527.33, and Charles Henderson came in at #56 with 452.52 students. The smallest school in Class 5A is Shelby County with an enrollment of 423.88, over 200 students less than the largest school in the class.

In Class 4A, Demopolis is the largest school in the classification with a student enrollment of 424.23, followed by Escambia County with an enrollment of 423.88 and Moody, with an enrollment of 421.45. Daleville is ranked 4th in the 4A ranks with 414.57 students, while Rehobeth also made the "Top 10" with 386.70 students.

Andalusia is ranked #22 in 4A circles with an enrollment of 365.02, with Hillcrest, of Evergreen, coming in at #30 with 352.20 students. Other area schools in Class 4A include Ashford, at 40th with 328.10 students, Opp, at 57th with 306.60 students and Geneva, at #66 the smallest school in Class 4A with 296.13 students.

Geneva's student enrollment is over 125 students less than the largest school in the classification.

In Class 3A, Lincoln is the largest school in the classification with 295.42, followed by Dadeville (295.27) and Springville (294.77). Headland is ranked 4th in 3A circles with an enrollment of 291.23, while Barbour County is 6th with 284.20 students and T.R. Miller is ranked #18 with 267.58 students. Other area schools in Class 3A include W.S. Neal, at 26th, with 256.55 students, Straughn, at #29, with 250.43 students; Abbeville, at 44th, with 234.68 students; Slocomb,

at 47th, with 227.40 students; and Pike County, ranked 64th out of 67 schools with a student enrollment of 206.55. The smallest school in the 3A ranks is Sumiton Christian, with 206.55 students, less than 100 students under the enrollment of the largest school in the classification.

In Class 2A, Houston County is ranked as the largest school in the class with a student enrollment of 205.50, followed by Lamar County with 204.95 students and Colbert Heights with 203.78 students. Elba is ranked #7 in the 2A ranks with 199.95 students, while other area schools in the classification include Luverne, at 16th, with 193.93 students; New Brockton, at 31st, with 183.38 students; Wicksburg, at 39th, with 177.05 students; Geneva County, at 50th, with 165.50 students; G.W. Long, at 59th, with 155.25 students; Georgiana, at 60th, with 154.40 students; Houston Academy, at 63rd, with 151.25 students; Red Level, at 64th, with 149.90 students; and Highland Home, at 72nd, with 145.60 students. The smallest school in the class is Keith, with 145.03 students, which is 60 students less than the largest school in the classification.

In Class 1A, McIntosh is the largest school, in the classification with 144.55 students, followed by Goshen with 141.85 students and Section with 141.15 students. Florala is ranked #15 in the classification with an enrollment of 129, while Arion is ranked #23 with 122.90 students and Brantley is ranked #25 with 120.35 students. Other area schools in Class 1A include Kinross at 39th, with 110.55 students; Zion Chapel, at 41st, with 105.80 students; and McKenzie, at 66th, with 72.20 students. The smallest school in the state is Sacred Heart with 24.30 students.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Notice:

The Human Resource Development Corporation will sponsor the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Education, Child and Adult Care Food Program, in licensed Family Day Care Homes in the following counties: Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Pike. For more information, contact Sharon Meek, Child Care Food Program Manager at (334) 347-0881, ext. 32.

To My Fellow Citizens,

I want each of you to know it has been an honor to serve as your mayor for the past 8 years. We have accomplished a lot together. We also have lots more to do to make Elba an even better home for our children and our new and existing businesses.

Years ago when our city was besieged by the flood waters of the Pea River, many of those outside our city questioned our passion and commitment to reinvesting in Elba. Today, that spirit of renewal has carried us into a time of progress that is seeing major infrastructure improvements in and near to Elba, additional employment via both existing and new businesses, and an increase in our local financial support of the Elba School System - one of the best in the state. Each of these areas is contributing - and in the near future - will contribute more and more to the financial stability of our city.

Within the last year alone we have experienced good economic news as expansions of facilities and the creation of new jobs have occurred at the Mobile Attic and Kelley Foods of Alabama. Elba has also joined the growing automotive boom in Alabama by announcing in June 2003 the location of Toledo Molding and Die, Inc., an Ohio-based company doing business with the likes of Ford, Nissan, Saturn and other automakers. In fact, I just visited the Toledo plant this past week to get an update on their progress. Employment and production are far ahead of schedule. This is great news for Elba and Southeast Alabama.

While many of you have benefited from the services of the Department of Agriculture Diagnostics Lab, the lab had become outdated for the current needs of such a lab. When the state agriculture department first hinted the lab could be relocated communities all across the state began essentially bidding for the lab to be located to their area of the state. Thanks to the work of Senator Holley, Representative Spicer, Fern Cox, Eddie Kelley and many, many others here in Elba, we secured the new facility for Elba. In so doing, Elba will now be the home of some of the most specialized equipment and capabilities in the southeast region.

Toledo Molding and Die and the Diagnostic Lab are two good examples of our renewed efforts to market the assets of Elba to those here in the states and abroad. Our local economic development program is working with a number of state and regional development organizations in aggressively promoting the city. Our primary goal in this area has been and will continue to be to identify quality companies - and to determine which of those are suited to fit our development goals for Elba. As those in the economic development business know this process is one that takes time, energy and a great deal of patience. Rest assured though, we are building bridges that will go a long way to adding businesses to our community.

Our economic efforts directed at "existing" industry have already paid huge dividends. Just this past month, Kelley Foods of Alabama announced a \$2 million expansion of their distribution facility and the additional jobs accompanying this expansion. Also in July, our newest Elba business, Bridgeville Trailers completed it's first trailer. Employment and production are steadily growing each week.

Some time back, the business leaders of Elba chose to ask Kaye Whitworth to serve as the director of the Elba Economic and Development Board. The businesses and local industries had already selected her to head the independent Elba Chamber of Commerce. Her dedication to both jobs has certainly shown. Since taking the helm, she has worked long and hard with our city and business leaders to bring these new industries to our community, as well as, help existing businesses with their growth.

Through targeted efforts to work more closely with our state and federal elected representatives and our state, regional and federal agencies, we have been the beneficiary of substantial state and federal dollars that have been used to improve our city infrastructure. Among these projects are a \$1.4 million water project that will help ensure the future growth of Kelley Foods, a \$2.8 million sewer project for the Elba area, over \$1 million in economic development assistance used to attract new business, \$2 million for the paving of Highway 87 and over \$700,000 for repaving of the airport road. Additionally, our city will in the near future benefit from the \$200,000,000 million Highway 84 project that will improve the route between Andalusia and Enterprise. Your city administration worked closely with state officials to secure this highway project.

The future of Coffee County EMS became extremely important last year. When the organization made its change from a for-profit business to a not-for-profit organization, we were instrumental in keeping EMS services in the Elba area. In doing this, the safety and well-being of the citizens of Elba was our priority. By keeping the EMS service here, it ensures quicker emergency response time to those in need of medical care.

Perhaps I am most proud of the completion earlier this year of the newly constructed levee. This \$12 million project will provide our downtown area with renewed protection and a renewed spirit. As part of this project, we will soon construct a lighted walking/running trail on a portion of the levee to benefit our many walkers and runners. We continue to work for an ever widening flood control plan as funds become available. To further address our downtown improvements, we have secured a downtown planning grant that will fund the beginnings of a downtown revitalization project.

Most recently, we became the first city in the Wiregrass to install fiber optic/high speed Internet across our entire city. This improvement will substantially help our local businesses compete in the new technology era. Via high-speed Internet, companies like Kelley Foods, Bridgeville Trailer and Toledo Molding and Die can be competitive right here in Elba.

I am also proud to tell you during the last few years I have worked with the Council and many of you to improve the recreational programs for our city's youth. The Recreation Department's budget has been increased by over 200%. This has enabled the department to make improvements to Mulberry Park, enhance the family management program, and play host to the Dixie Youth baseball tournament.

As you may know, although the mayor's position is a part-time position, I pledged to each of you to be a full-time mayor when I first sought this position in 1996. I have done so over the past 8 years as I promised I would. I am committed to continuing to deliver on this promise for another four years.

With this in mind, we have a number of projects in progress that I would like to see completed. These include: 1. Completion of the four-lane on Highway 84; 2. The creation of a Downtown Redevelopment Authority that will provide the foundation for working with downtown businesses to help finance improvements in the near future; 3. The addition of new baseball and softball fields; 4. A renewed effort to recruit regional baseball and softball tournaments; 5. The construction of an aquatic playground; 6. The addition of a baseball and softball pitching machine cage at Hawkins-Williams Park; 7. The repaving and lengthening of the airport runway; 8. The renovation of Legion Field; 9. The planning and construction of a multi-use community center; and 10. Implementation of a Municipal Court System.

All said, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor for the past 8 years. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I am most excited about what the future holds for our city. If on August 24, I am given the honor of representing you as mayor you can know I will work long and hard to represent this city I have called home for over 65 years.

I respectfully seek your vote and support on August 24. Together we can make Elba an even greater place to call home.

James E. Grimes

Pd. Pol. Adv. by James E. Grimes, P.O. Box 551, Elba, AL 36323

Interested citizens begin work on Elba playground project



A PLACE TO PLAY. A project to build a new playground for Elba's children currently is underway. This is a joint project between the Kiwanis Club of Elba and local moms. Project coordinators Jill Dunn and Kristin Gunnells are working hard to inform citizens about the project and build community support. Currently, fund raising is the most pressing matter, and a public meeting has been set for Saturday, Aug. 21, to discuss ideas. Dunn, Gunnells and Elba's children invite all citizens to get involved with this project and help provide a place for youngsters to play and have fun. Pictured above with a Support Elba's Playground Project sign are Chelsey Morehead, Kristin Gunnells, Emma Gunnells, Garrett Dunn, Peyton Dunn, Jill Dunn and Abby Morehead.

The Kiwanis Club of Elba has teamed up with some local moms to build a new playground for Elba's children.

The project coordinators are Jill Dunn and Kristin Gunnells, and they are currently working to build support and raise funds for the project.

Dunn said the immediate goal is to raise \$3,000 by September. She said this money will be used to acquire a design team for the playground.

A public meeting will be held Saturday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m. at the park next to the recreation department on Claxton Avenue. In the event of rain, the meeting will be rescheduled.

Dunn said the meeting will pertain to fund raising and deciding which company to use to design the park.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

There are many ways to participate with this project including: financial support, volunteering time, providing ideas about what is wanted for the new playground and donation of supplies.

For more information or to make a donation, call Jill Dunn at 897-3971 or 897-6503 or Kristin Gunnells at 897-2802.

Field crops to take center stage at Wiregrass Field Day

The Wiregrass Research and Extension Center (WREC) in Headland will observe its 75th anniversary as an outlying agricultural research unit of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station on Thursday, Aug. 19, from 8 a.m. to noon with an information-packed and tour-filled field crops field day.

Special guest Henry Ivey, who retired as superintendent of the WREC in 1995 after 29 years of service at the facility, will kick off the day's activities with comments on the center's 75-year history.

In field tours that will follow Ivey's comments, peanut research will be a major focus, as scientists from Auburn University's College of

Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service discuss their studies of peanut cultivar performance under heavy disease and nematode pressure, narrow- and wide-strip tillage/peanut production, peanut variety evaluations in still versus conventional tillage, advanced peanut breeding lines and insect and disease management in commercial peanut cultivars.

At other stops on the tours, participants will glean information on subsurface irrigation in cotton, weed control in transgenic versus conventional corn, soil compaction problems in conservation tillage, the benefits of soil-based rotations and, on a

slightly different front, early- and late-season vegetable production in greenhouse-like structures known as high tunnels.

Participants will have the opportunity to take both of the tours.

Activities will end at noon with a sponsored lunch.

The Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System are co-sponsoring the field day, which is open to all persons regardless of race, gender, religion or national origin.

For more information, call Larry Wells, WREC superintendent, at 334-693-2363. The WREC is located in Headland at the intersection of U.S. Highway 431 and Alabama Highway 134.

Re-Elect James Grimes Mayor City of Elba

✓ **VOTE** August 24 ✓

Keep a Good Thing Going

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A Dedicated Mayor
A Determined Mayor

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Pd Pol Adv by James E. Grimes, P.O. Box 551, Elba, AL 36323

COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWS FROM OUR SERVICE FOLKS

Joseph A. Chandler graduates from U. S. Army radio school

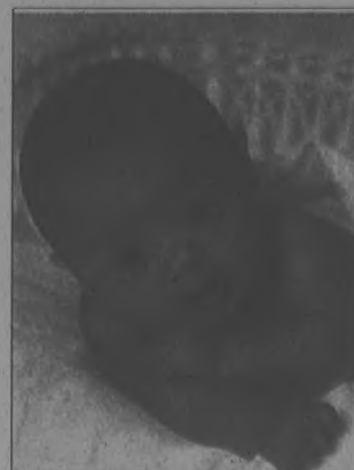
Army National Guard Pvt. Joseph A. Chandler has graduated from the radio operator-maintainer advanced individual training course at Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA.

The soldier was trained to install, operate, and perform preventive maintenance checks and services on single channel radio, teletypewriter assemblies, communications security devices and associated equipment. The student also learned to operate manual and automated communications systems, and perform preventive maintenance services on assigned vehicles and power generating equipment.

Chandler is the son of Ricky E. and Sara N. Chandler of Putnam Street, Elba, AL.

New Arrival

COLLIN DOUGLAS SAULS



Collin Douglas Sauls

Stevie and Denise Sauls of Elba announce the birth of their son, Collin Douglas Sauls, born April 16, 2004 in a Dothan hospital. At birth, he weighed 5 lbs.

Collin has one older brother, Chase.

Grandparents are Wayne and Diane Smith of New Hope, Bo and Betty Sauls of Elba. Great grandparents are Edd and Arletta Fillingim of New Hope, Totsie Smith and the late James Smith of Goodman, the late Clayton and Matte Lena Stanley of Curtis, and the late Albert and Dorothy Sauls of Elba.

Let us order your rubber stamp!

THE ELBA CLIPPER
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Miss Hamm earns way to State Junior Miss program

Reprinted courtesy The Cullman Times by Gail Crutchfield

It's a dream come true for Sarah Hamm. For the last few years, she's watched one friend after another take to the stage for Junior Miss programs here and in Montgomery and waited for the day to do it herself.

This year, it's her time to shine. Hamm, the daughter of Mark and Margaret Hamm of Cullman, and the granddaughter of Phillip and June Hamm of Elba, is the 2005 Cullman County Junior Miss and will compete in December for the title of Alabama's Junior Miss.

Hamm received the distinction after attending the state at-large program at Birmingham-Southern College July 24. She takes over the reign of 2004 Cullman County Junior Miss Britany Binkowski.

Margaret Hamm said her daughter still had to meet stringent qualifications so that she could continue in the program. Sarah made the cut and was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship, a six-month membership to SportsFirst and a Belk gift basket, all supplied by the Cullman County Junior Miss program and its sponsors. Sarah and her mother said Cullman County Junior Miss Director Patty Greer has been a pillar of support during the process.

The Junior Miss program judges participants in five separate categories. The interview and talent portions make up 25 percent each. A participant's academic record accounts for 20 percent of her score and the self-expression (formerly known as poise) and fitness are each worth 15 percent.

For her talent, the 17-year-old Cullman High School student

performed a jazz point routine. Sarah said she's been dancing since she was in kindergarten and is currently a student at the Cullman Ballet Theater School.

I guess all those pick-ups, deliveries and costumes paid off," said Sarah's mother. Sarah was also required to present a platform. Her platform for the at-large program focused on integrity. Sarah said she has not decided if she will take that same platform to the state competition. That's something she would like to think about between now and December.

Time to think is not something the busy teen has a lot of. Along with dance classes and soon her school work, the straight-A student is the editor of her high school yearbook, captain of the marching band's dance line as well as first chair clarinet in the school's symphonic band and section leader in the concert season band. Add to that, she's the lieutenant governor of the Key Club and a member of the Leo Club, serving as its president last year. She's also a member of First United Methodist Church and a volunteer at Cullman Caring For Kids.

"She has an impeccable resume," said Binkowski, who has been there as a guide for Sarah through the process.

Since Morgan Smith won the Cullman County title for 2002, Sarah said she's made it her goal to be Junior Miss. "This is something I've wanted to do ever since Morgan was Junior Miss," she said.

"She was at every one of my events watching my routine," Binkowski said of Sarah who watched the process so she could learn as much as she could.

"Now I'll be on the other



Sarah Hamm

side," Sarah said. "Now she'll get to watch."

"And Britany can relax," Margaret Hamm added.

One good thing about participating in the at-large program, Sarah said, is that it is set up like the state pageant. "It gave me a good idea about the program," she said.

Another difference between the at-large and a local event is that the at-large program is a single-day event, rather than a three-day program. That meant participants only had a short amount of time to learn the routine for the fitness program.

"You had to see it, learn it and do it in one day," Sarah said. She said she would learn something and usually be performing it 30 minutes later.

Margaret Hamm said she wasn't worried about her daughter participating in the Junior Miss program and knew she could handle the pressure. And this was something Sarah was determined to do.

If she's made up her mind to do something, you better buckle your seat belt," she said. The payoff, no matter what the outcome of the state pageant, will be an experience she will treasure for the rest of her life and provide friends, contacts and a confidence she'll have for the future.

Sarah said one thing she's excited about is meeting the other girls in the program. She met several at the at-large event whom she'll meet again at the state event. "I'm looking forward to getting to know all the girls and a chance to meet girls who will be leaders that I'll interact with in college and later," she said.

Sarah has a little more time to figure things out. She's been accepted to Auburn and would be the third generation in her family to attend the university. But she's also looking into the University of North Carolina and Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

What she'll study is still up in the air. "I've always said engineering, but I'm not positive," she said. "Definitely business. Probably business and engineering. I want to be the boss and own my own company."

Jamie Greek participates in AL Governor's Youth Leadership Forum

Jamie Greek, an Elba High School student, was one of 22 students selected as a delegate to participate in Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities.

The forum was held on Troy University Campus. The students and counselors stayed on Campus June 6-10, 2004. The entire program was geared to help each delegate to focus on their strengths and abilities and not their disability. During the week delegates, former delegate staff and counselors had many fun and learning experiences.

The forum is co-sponsored by: The Department of Rehabilitation Services, The Alabama Governor's Committee on The Employment of People with Disabilities, and The Institute for Leadership Development, Troy University, Troy Campus.

Jamie learned a lot about careers and as a bonus he made many friends.

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WATER

(Continued from Page One)

Polyengineering of Dothan, has been working on a project scope for the town regarding upgrades to six inch water lines. He said it would probably take a year and a half to get everything in place for that project in which County Road 517 was included.

Mobley said the town actually has three options for County Road 517: 1) It can go ahead now and replace with a three inch line; 2) Put the relocation off and wait a year and a half to put in a six inch line with fire hydrants; or 3) Do both. Fix it now with a three inch line so the county can pave the dirt road. Then come back in a year and a half and reassess for the six inch line.

Water superintendent Ken Fox said all things considered, the town can get pretty close to the deadline mentioned in Tindell's letter if board members approved going ahead with the three inch

line. However, he said weather conditions would have to be considered.

Therefore, he recommended going ahead with the three inch line to allow the county to proceed with it's paving project.

Despite an obvious concern

CCC

(Continued from Page One)

attended a water board meeting to discuss the issue with the entire board.

With a meeting of the New Brockton Water Board scheduled for Monday evening, Aug. 9, commissioner Jim Thompson suggested Tindell and commissioners Robert Stephens and Bernest Brooks attend the meeting and try and solve the problem.

Tindell also suggested they, along with Mayor Cole, visit County Road 517 following the commission meeting to discuss it

regarding funds to pay for the project. Board members voted unanimously to relocate the water line on County Road 517 using a three inch line. They will try and meet the time estimated time frame proposed by the county engineer.

The next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, Aug. 23, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

before the New Brockton Water board meeting that evening.

In other business, the commission:

- * Approved a motion asking Revenue Commissioner Ronnie Burns, Probate Judge William Gammill and Sheriff Ben Moates to come to a commission meeting to publicly present their budget requests for FY2005.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the purchase of lighted, brick signs to be placed at various entrances into the City of Elba. Chamber officials said the signs will serve as enhanced welcoming tools for visitors coming into the city.

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Announce birth of son



Elba pre Foggy Cl



INSIDE
Zadie Bouyer enjoys 100th birthday



The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 10

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, August 19, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Residents support chamber's "Dining

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba Chamber of Commerce fed, entertained and delighted those who attended "Dining for Signs" last Thursday evening, Aug. 12, at the Elba Recreation Center on Claxton Avenue.

Guests were able to enjoy a

catered meal while sitting at interestingly decorated tables. With decorations being left up to the table sponsor, creativity was a major attraction as guests wandered around looking at the various designs and themes.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the purchase of lighted, brick signs to be

placed at various entrances into the City of Elba. Chamber officials said the signs will serve as enhanced welcoming tools for visitors coming into the city.

Dining for Signs was the first fund raising effort for this project, and chamber officials were overwhelmingly pleased with its success as more than 300 people

Signs" event

attended. Through ticket sales for the dinner, sponsorships, individual donations and an auction of some Alabama/Auburn items, the event raised more than \$8,000 for the sign project.

Denise Sauls, chamber board member, said it is not known at this point exactly how much money it will take to allow the city to place these signs at all entrances; however, she said the wonderful support shown for Dining for Signs will go a long way in helping the chamber reach its goal.

Sauls said the chamber will continue to work on this project until enough funds have been raised to allow the city to construct all the needed signs.

For more information regarding the sign project, call the chamber office at 897-3125.

Municipal elections set for Tuesday, Aug. 24, in Elba

Registered voters within the City of Elba will make their decisions Tuesday, Aug. 24, regarding municipal leaders for the next four years.

Offices up for election include mayor and city council member for districts one, two and three.

City council members for districts four and five were decided without holding election with only one candidate qualified for those spots. Both incumbents, Harold Spivey for District Four and Ronnie Hammond for District Five, were declared winners during the Monday, Aug. 9, Elba City Council meeting.

Seeking the mayor's position for the City of Elba in Tuesday's election will be incumbent James E. Grimes and challenger Randy Bedsole.

As for the council member positions up for election, voters also will choose between two competitors.

District One voters will choose between incumbent L.M. Burch or Tom G. Hooks. District Two voters will choose between incumbent David Baldstra or challenger Helen C. Farris, and District Three voters will choose between incumbent H.H. "Junior" Culver or challenger Mike McKee.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Elba Recreation Center on Claxton Avenue.

During Elba City School board meeting Superintendent boasts over smooth start to school year

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City School Board met on Tuesday, August 10th, when students and teachers had been given two days of school under their belt.

Superintendent Danny Weeks was elated at the smooth start of school and had high praise for the staff and the Elba Police Department for their professional traffic control and guidance given to drivers on the campus, students, parents and staff alike. Also coming in for credit on the smooth start was the new paved parking lot at the elementary school and drivers fully utilizing the back road in and out of the campus complex.

Initial attendance is down some from last year but board members were told by the Superintendent that it would take several weeks, as usual, for all students to get enrolled in regular classes.

The Board approved the FY 2005 operating budget with an anticipated total revenue of over seven million dollars. Of that total, over four million is in state funds, one million is federal funds and one and a half million of the total Elba City School budget for 2005 is local funds.

The public was invited to budget hearings on Monday and Tuesday evenings, but there were no visitors. Many people have discovered that the local school board has only a very small percentage of this total budget in which they have any discretion in spending. Teacher and support salaries, capital outlay funds, etc. are largely set at the state level or by the legislature. Federal funds are for designated purposes and can't be utilized for other projects.

A soothing figure on the newly adopted budget was that there is no debt service item because the school system is completely out of debt.

The budget calls for the system to complete the year with about two months of operating expenses, as recommended by the state department of education. That amount could shrink if state education funds again are forced into proration.

The board also officially adopted the state salary matrix schedule for the coming year.

Review and approval of the financial statement for the past

month and approval of paying the bills went without disruption. Board members expressed relief that the administrators have gotten the expenses down to within the system's income.

Both the General Fund and the Child Nutrition Fund (lunchrooms) are operating in the black. The balance in the Nutrition Fund dropped by \$30,000 from the previous month but Weeks explained this is due to purchasing food needed to reopen school lunchrooms.

A large portion of the Capital Projects fund will be used in paving the new parking lot at the high school. The board discussed other capital improvement needs, including reroofing both schools. The cost of this for both schools far exceeds the capital funds allocated by the state, and Weeks told board members they would probably have to repair one school roof at the time. Installing metal roofs on both buildings will get prime consideration from board members if it is financially possible.

REMINDER
A meeting regarding the Elba playground project will be held Saturday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m. at the park on Claxton Avenue. Rescheduled if raining.



HOME COOKING...The Elba Chamber of Commerce and its members welcomed a new restaurant to business Friday, Aug. 6, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Hannah's Country Kitchen recently opened in the building formerly occupied by Coffee County EMS on Claxton Avenue and offers a lunch buffet weekdays, and on Sunday. The business also offers delivery and catering services. Those present for the ribbon cutting ceremony included (from left) Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Sam Cooper, Little Miss Elba Emilee Hudson, Tonya Jones, James Coleman, Ramona Grantham, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Eddie Vaughan, Destiny Hudson, Future Little Miss Elba Madelyn Kelley, Renee Lambert, Denise Sauls, Junior Miss Elba Kendall Stinson, Kenneth Calhoun and Herby McCall.



OPEN FOR READING...New Brockton High School media specialist Lori Cotney and many, many volunteers worked diligently throughout the summer to remodel and enlarge the New Brockton High School library. All that hard work paid off last Thursday evening, Aug. 5, as school officials joined community leaders and citizens for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new library/media center, New Brockton High School principal Dale Kelley said the library had needed the improvements for quite some time, and he was pleased to see so many in attendance for the special occasion. Standing close by as Kelley and Cotney cut the ribbon were school board members, city officials, beauty queens to come to a commission meeting to publicly present their budget requests for FY2005.

The next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, Aug. 23, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

Alabama Virtual Library Card now available

You need this card to access the Alabama Virtual Library System to view newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, etc., online from home, school, or the library computers. The card is free from your public library. Go by and pick one up today.

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2004 Fall Registration
REGULAR REGISTRATION
(All Campuses)
ANDALUSIA/GREENVILLE/MACARTHUR
Tuesday, August 17, 2004
8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

LATE REGISTRATION
(All Campuses)
Drop/Add Period: August 18 - 23, 2004
Classes Begin August 18, 2004

Andalusia/Greenville Campus (334) 222-6591 ext. 2271
MacArthur Campus (334) 493-3573 ext. 5333

For more information on using the AVL card, Friends of the Elba Public Library (FOEPL) will host a program, "Introduction to the Alabama Virtual Library," 7 p.m., Thursday, August 26, 2004, Community Room, Elba Public Library.

Parents and grandparents are especially invited to come so they will be able to assist children in using this card.

National Security declares quarterly dividend

The Board of Directors of the National Security Group, Inc., declared a quarterly dividend of \$.21 per share at its meeting on July 17, 2004. This represents an annual indicating dividend rate of \$.84 per share. This cash dividend is payable on August 31, 2004 to shareholders of record August 2, 2004.

LAUGHTER IN A SMALL PACKAGE...Following the Dining for Signs meal last Thursday evening, Aug. 12, the more than 300 guests were treated to some special entertainment. Alabama Sam, an 8-year-old comedian from Enterprise, brought many guests to tears as they laughed at his varying jokes. The youngster kept the attention of his audience by delivering each and every punchline at just the right time. Also entertaining the crowd was Buck Gaines, who sang several well recognized songs. Additional scenes from the evening can be found on Page 11.

FOEPL plans informative program on usage

Alabama Virtual Library cards available at Elba Public Library

The Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) provides a world of quality library information licensed for Alabama Library Users, and the Elba Public Library now has Alabama Virtual Library cards available.

The cards are needed to gain access to the AVL system which provides quality information at the "click of a mouse." The AVL system connects users to magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, academic journals, poetry, literature, health, law, science and stories, and it can be done online from home, school or the library computers.

The remote access card allows users to view this information from home, the office or other remote locations, and there is no fee for the card or this service.

Each member of a family is encouraged to register for an individual card which will provide them with their own user name and password.

In an attempt to help local users better understand the AVL system and the importance of

obtaining an AVL card, Friends of the Elba Public Library (FOEPL) will host a program entitled, "Introduction to the Alabama Virtual Library," Thursday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. in the community room of the Elba Public Library.

Parents and grandparents are especially invited to attend this informative meeting so they will

Attorney General Troy King appoints Coffee County native Brenda Flowers Smith to head opinions division

Attorney General Troy King last week announced the appointment of long-time Assistant Attorney General Brenda Flowers Smith to be chief of his Opinions Division. Since coming to the Attorney General's Office in 1987, Smith has served as an attorney in the Opinions Division through the administrations of five Attorneys General.

"It is my distinct pleasure to work alongside Brenda Smith when I first came to work in this office several years ago, and I developed a great respect and admiration for her outstanding character and hard work," said Attorney General King. "She is a diligent and thorough legal scholar, and she has a keen mind and a deep devotion to this office and to the people of Alabama. I am delighted that she has agreed to serve this State as chief of the Attorney General's Opinions Division."

A veteran employee of the Attorney General's Office, Smith began her career at the Alabama Supreme Court, first as a law clerk for Justice James H. Faulkner and then as a staff attorney for Justice Henry B. Steagall II. She graduated from the University of Alabama Law

in 1985, and received an accounting degree from the University of Alabama in 1982. She is an active member of the Zonta Club of Montgomery, a service organization of which she is a past president.

Like Attorney General King, Smith is a native of Coffee County and grew up near Elba. She attended Zion Chapel Elementary School and graduated from Wicksburg High School

in Houston County. She now lives in Montgomery with her husband Ken Smith, who is the deputy director and legal counsel for the Alabama League of Municipalities. They are members of the First United Methodist Church of Montgomery. Smith is the daughter of Juanita Flowers and

be able to assist children in using the AVL card.

The Alabama Virtual Library is made possible by the cooperation of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Alabama Department of Education, Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, Alabama Public Library Service and Alabama Supercomputer Authority.

For more information about AVL, the user card or the upcoming meeting, contact the Elba Public Library at 897-6921.

Please See KING, Page 11

Area Happenings

THE FOURTH ANNUAL "FOGGY BOTTOM" CLASSIC perennial football game will be held Thursday evening, Aug. 19, in Elba at the Elba Tigers host the Highland Home Flying Squadron. The game will be held at Miller Memorial stadium in downtown Elba. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

A DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE MULBERRY BALL FIELD in honor of Gaynes C. Waters will be held Saturday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m. at the ball field. Everyone is invited.

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting Monday, Aug. 23, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

THE USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE in Ozark will be closed Thursday and Friday, Sept. 2 & 3, and will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

WIN CASH!

Thousands of people have won thousands of dollars at Quincy's 777 at VictoryLand.

Win over 1,700 video keno machines, you can play games like The Wheel of Fortune, Double Diamond, Jackpot Party, Red White and Blue and Blazin' Sevens at VictoryLand and win cash. You could be the next big winner!

WINNERS

\$11,400 \$10,000 \$5,000 \$163,000 \$60,000 \$1,500 \$5,000

\$4,000 \$3,000 \$1,800 \$12,000 \$20,000 \$3,200 \$9,600 \$4,000

QUINCY'S 777 AT VICTORYLAND

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